

CITY OF WOODSTOCK
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Special Meeting
August 20, 2014
City Council Chambers

The special meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairman Andrew Celentano on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Andrew Celentano, Susan Hudson, Caron Wenzel, Mark Indyke

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Osborn

STAFF PRESENT: Assistant Director of Public Works Jeff Van Landuyt

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Dianne Mitchell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by C. Wenzel, second by M. Indyke to accept the June 18, 2014 Special Meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Chairman A. Celentano, S. Hudson, M. Indyke, C. Wenzel. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Osborn. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

J. Van Landuyt stated that he attended the McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force meeting but noted that Paul Ruscko is going to be the permanent attendee at the meetings. He reported that it is an advisory committee for the McHenry County Department of Transportation. He stated that at the first meeting they approved bylaws and appointed a chair and a vice-chair. He reported that they talked about the MCRide expansion in regards to other communities joining. He noted that it could give us more money to expand MCRide but also it could lower the cost to the City as a participant.

J. Van Landuyt stated that there was a presentation from Senior Service Associates which is a volunteer driver program. He stated that it is a good service for people who need rides one way noting that they can call and arrange for a return trip but the driver will not wait for a passenger. He reported that Pace representative talked about MCRide and mentioned that the most common destinations and origins are the Metra stations. He stated that they mentioned that Jewel was a popular spot in Woodstock. He advised that the group will meet every other month and that the next meeting is scheduled for September 24th.

J. Van Landuyt reported that MCRide's fare box recovery rate is 9-11%. This ratio reflects the percentage of the total cost that is covered by fares paid by each passenger. A. Celentano stated that a good part of it is because some of the distances are really long. M. Indyke stated that there are no services on the weekends. A. Celentano thinks it is unfortunate that the fare box recovery rate is so low.

A. Celentano reported that Jason Osborn has left MCDOT and is at Metra now. He doesn't know if J. Osborn will be continuing with the Commission.

A. Celentano stated that he and J. Van Landuyt met with the Woodstock High School students today. He advised that there are five students. The Commission reviewed the list of project ideas. C. Wenzel and S. Hudson feel that the students should choose their own project. M. Indyke stated that past student groups have already completed projects on the list. He was hoping that this year's group could complete a new project, not one that has already been evaluated. M. Indyke indicated that he had sent an email to J. Van Landuyt with the suggestion of creating a program to prioritize/ rank those roads needing improvement. C. Wenzel suggested the removal of those on the list that have already been evaluated and ask them to choose from those that remain.

A. Celentano suggested a hard project where the students could actually build a prototype such as bicycle racks. The group discussed some project ideas such as charging stations for electric vehicles and reuse of parcels where gas stations once inhabited. J. Van Landuyt stated that students had wondered if any of the projects on the list were a priority for the Commission. The group decided on six options for the students to choose from.

TRANSMITTALS: (No discussion or action requested)

1. McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force – July 23, 2014 Meeting
2. “Making Safe Streets A Real Possibility – AARP Bulletin April 2014
3. “STEM knowledge strengthens workplace opportunities” – NW Herald 7/4/2014
A. Celentano stated that STEM feeds into the Project Lead the Way programs. He stated that they should try to reestablish contact at Woodstock North to see if they want to do a project. He stated that they are doing POE, Principles of Engineering. He advised that he and J. Van Landuyt are planning on talking to Michael Moan about the student projects. J. Van Landuyt stated that Woodstock North is not set up to do anything this year in regard to Project Lead the Way.
4. “Bridges to somewhere” – Article from: The Economist 7/19, 2014
5. “Rolling blunder” – Article from: The Economist 8/9/2014
M. Indyke stated that the streetcars are limited in their scope. The group discussed energy sources and light rail systems.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of revisions & acceptance of Chapter 5 – 2005 Transportation Plan
A. Celentano suggested putting the date that it is approved on the header page for each chapter. He referenced the third page and suggested adding “increased ridership should increase frequency.” M. Indyke referenced the bullet point on Page 6 regarding aggressively marketing public transportation and schedule placement and stated that he would like to see what more advertisement and access would provide before adding more buses.

S. Hudson agreed with M. Indyke and stated given that such a small percentage of the funding comes from ridership, increasing the number of buses is going to make the tax bill higher which isn’t going to make people happy. She stated that you want to start with fully utilizing what you have and making the argument that you are decreasing traffic and reducing costs in other areas because people are using public transportation otherwise it isn’t economically viable to add them.

M. Indyke questioned if the City of Woodstock publication has bus routes in it. She believes that for so few bus routes, they need time tables before anybody will commit to using them. M. Indyke stated that bus ridership doesn’t happen if they don’t know when the buses are coming.

Motion by M. Indyke, second by S. Hudson to accept Chapter 5 of the 2005 Transportation Plan as presented. Ayes: Chairman A. Celentano, S. Hudson, M. Indyke, C. Wenzel. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Osborn. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of revisions & acceptance of Chapter 6 – 2005 Transportation Plan
C. Wenzel wants the Van Galder bus back to get to the airport and stated that it takes \$40-\$60 to get one way or a four hour train ride. S. Hudson stated that she wants more detail such as what is the cost to get to Milwaukee Airport using public transportation or what is the cost of getting to Chicago, how long does it take and what are the county airport facilities and where are they located and are they all private. She stated that it seems like when you are dealing with a limited number of facilities that you could have a lot more detail.

M. Indyke questioned if this section is necessary. He stated that Woodstock doesn’t have public transportation available to the airports. S. Hudson questioned the time and cost to get to the regional

airports and stated that the document says we have access but she doesn't think we really do. She stated that the time and cost would be something that planners might look at in this plan to identify problem areas. A. Celentano stated that the cost is "as of now."

A. Celentano summarized that it should include distance, time and cost for the three airports that we have access to. S. Hudson suggested that it should include what the county airport facilities are, are they public or private, and what services are provided. She stated that the document makes it sound like there are a lot of county airports. She advised that that it's not supposed to be a publicity document, it's supposed to be an articulation of the actual situation.

M. Indyke referenced the second paragraph in summary and overview that says Woodstock has access to the world with relative ease. S. Hudson stated that it makes sound like it's a publicity document as opposed to one that is critically evaluating the existing situation and what the needs are.

A. Celentano advised that he will pass his notes to J. Van Landuyt. J. Van Landuyt advised that he will bring back the amended chapter in September.

2. Sidewalk Improvements – recommendations – priorities

C. Wenzel and M. Indyke both think the document is great. A. Celentano advised that they never received from City Engineer Al Wilson the intersections he is addressing. They need to have A. Wilson look it over and blend it into what he is working on. J. Van Landuyt advised that A. Wilson is working on the ADA transition plan. S. Hudson stated that these are still the Commission's recommendations and now it should go through Public Works. M. Indyke thinks they should give it to the City as is. S. Hudson agreed and suggested that Public Works might want to look at it first.

In response to A. Celentano, S. Hudson reviewed the process of the project and advised that the Mayor wants recommendations for zones or routes that would be priorities. She stated that the only document that would be passed on is the one with "background" on the first page and noted that the data does not need to be submitted with it. She advised that Public Works has the data and can use it. She stated that ultimately they used a subjective approach and noted that the document states that the accompanying data can be requested from Public Works. A. Celentano stated that the data has a great deal of value too. J. Van Landuyt advised that they have all the data that S. Hudson provided.

J. Van Landuyt questioned what they want the Mayor to do with it once he has the document and S. Hudson stated that the Commission would like feedback. J. Van Landuyt questioned if they want to submit it to City Council or just to the Mayor. S. Hudson responded that the Mayor requested it so the Commission should give it to him first and ask what the next steps would be.

3. High School Project Participation

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Continued Review of Transportation Plan – September 2014
2. Event/ Party Bus – September 2014
3. Discussion on Frontage Roads along IL Rt. 47 Corridor – November 2014

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by M. Indyke, second by C. Wenzel to adjourn the special meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission to the regular meeting September 17, 2014 @ 7:00 PM. Ayes: Chairman A. Celentano, S. Hudson, M. Indyke, C. Wenzel. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Osborn. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Mitchell - City Clerk